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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Eastern European Reaction to Slaying of Martin Luther King

The Poles, Yugoslavs and Hungarians have demonstrated against US embassies. In Poland several eggs were thrown at the embassy by Afro-Asian students but no damage resulted. The students also presented the embassy with a petition citing sympathy with "Afro-Americans" and demanding punishment for the assassins. In Yugoslavia segments of a crowd estimated at 300,000, ostensibly protesting US Vietnam policy, but probably inflamed by King's murder, were stopped from attacking the USIA library by police truncheons and water hoses. The Budapest embassy, staff residences and cars were plastered with stickers saying "fascist murderers," and, "you will pay for King," and the Embassy was swamped with protest calls Saturday and Sunday night.

In East Germany, a silent march sponsored by the International League for Human Rights and a teach-in on Martin Luther King's ideas were scheduled for 8 March. One party official claimed that outrage over King's slaying contributed to the number of approving votes in the constitutional referendum held on 6 April.

Press reaction in Eastern Europe has been almost uniform, with the exception of the Czechoslovaks, in citing the US government's use of violence in Vietnam as the main contributor to violence in everyday life at home. The Albanians described the riots as a full blown racial war. The Yugoslavs and Czechoslovaks blamed the assassination on rightist groups wishing to foment further hatred and unrest in the US. The only official statement so far has come from East Germany, where Premier Stoph deplored official promotion of racism in the US.

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Ousted Polish Scientists Invited to Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences has invited two of the numerous Polish academicians who were purged from their posts in Warsaw to a "long-term scientific visit" in Prague, according to an unsigned article in the Prague press of 29 March. The invitation was extended in a letter from the "workers' collective" of two Czechoslovak sociological institutes to the Polish Embassy in Prague. The letter

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also expressed the concern in Czechoslovak academic circles over the recent purge of four other Polish professors whom it described as "outstanding Marxists." [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: It is not likely that the Polish regime will submit to the embarrassment of permitting its domestic critics to work from exile in Czechoslovakia.

Yugoslavs Loosen Purse Strings

The Yugoslav government is ready to agree to a loan of US-owned dinars for construction of a new hotel in Belgrade, according to a Yugoslav tourism official. The new enterprise, which would involve the merger of two Yugoslav firms, reportedly already has selected a site for the new building. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: If this report is confirmed, it may evidence a shift in the Yugoslav regime's policy of not allowing the use of US-owned dinars for investment projects in Yugoslavia. Despite a few projects which have been encouraged by Yugoslavia's liberalized foreign investment law, there has been no large influx of foreign investment. The regime may be shifting its policy in order to help prod the sluggish Yugoslav economy into faster growth.

Novotny is Subject of Political Novel to be Published in Czechoslovakia

The famous Slovak writer Ladislav Mnacko, has told interviewers in Rome that his new book, "A Taste of Power," would soon be published in Czechoslovakia. Mnacko confirmed that the main character of the book really is deposed party boss Antonin Novotny, an "old fighter against fascism and for freedom, whom power transformed into a dictator." Mnacko still hopes to return to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Mnacko left Czechoslovakia after the June 1967 Mid-East war because he objected to Prague's support of the Arabs pledged to "annihilate" the Israelis. As a result he was stripped of his citizenship and awards and was threatened with arrest if he should return. He has kept up a steady drumfire against the former Novotny regime, but has made

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a number of friendly noises about the Dubcek administration. Unofficially the new authorities have indicated that Mnacko might return with impunity if he chooses to do so.

Polish Regime is Busy, No Time For Visas

Tad Szulc, New York Times correspondent in Madrid who is slated to replace Jonathan Randal in Warsaw, is the latest victim of the footdragging and indecision accompanying the regime's political crisis. There has been no action yet on Szulc's three-week old request for a visa, and working level officials in the Foreign Ministry shrug their shoulders when asked about it.

The US Embassy in Warsaw believes, however, that because of the regime's past record of delays on issuing visas to Western correspondents, the Szulc case should not be pressed for the time being. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: Reports that the Foreign Ministry is due for a "head to toe" shakeup soon probably partially explains this and other instances of indecision and delay.

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The regime has also restricted entry by the numerous other Western correspondents who have sought to cover the current crisis, and have flatly denied visas to some of them. Finally, the fact that Szulc is Jewish will certainly not help his case.

Aftermath of the East German Referendum

Some party functionaries have been apprehensive about the regime's decision to publish by individual Kreis the results of the referendum. [REDACTED]

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Some students may not have had an opportunity to vote in the referendum because they were participating in military training over the week-end. [REDACTED]

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The church seemed to have caused the regime the most trouble during the referendum, but authorities appear to [REDACTED]

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have handled the situation deftly. One Catholic priest was arrested and later released and even tough old Bishop Krummacher, leader of the Evangelical church, finally capitulated and urged Christians to vote for the constitution.

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COMMENT: Despite apprehension by some, the regime does not seem unduly concerned by the more than 400,000 no votes. This figure constitutes less than 4 percent of the votes cast and, while significant for East Germany, may have provided the regime with a real indicator of the degree of control it wields.

Developments in Poland and Czechoslovakia probably influenced a good many of the Young people and students who reportedly agitated against the constitution. Nevertheless, under heavy coercive pressure, better than 95 percent of East German voters provided the regime with the conditioned response it had painstakingly sought.

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